

HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS

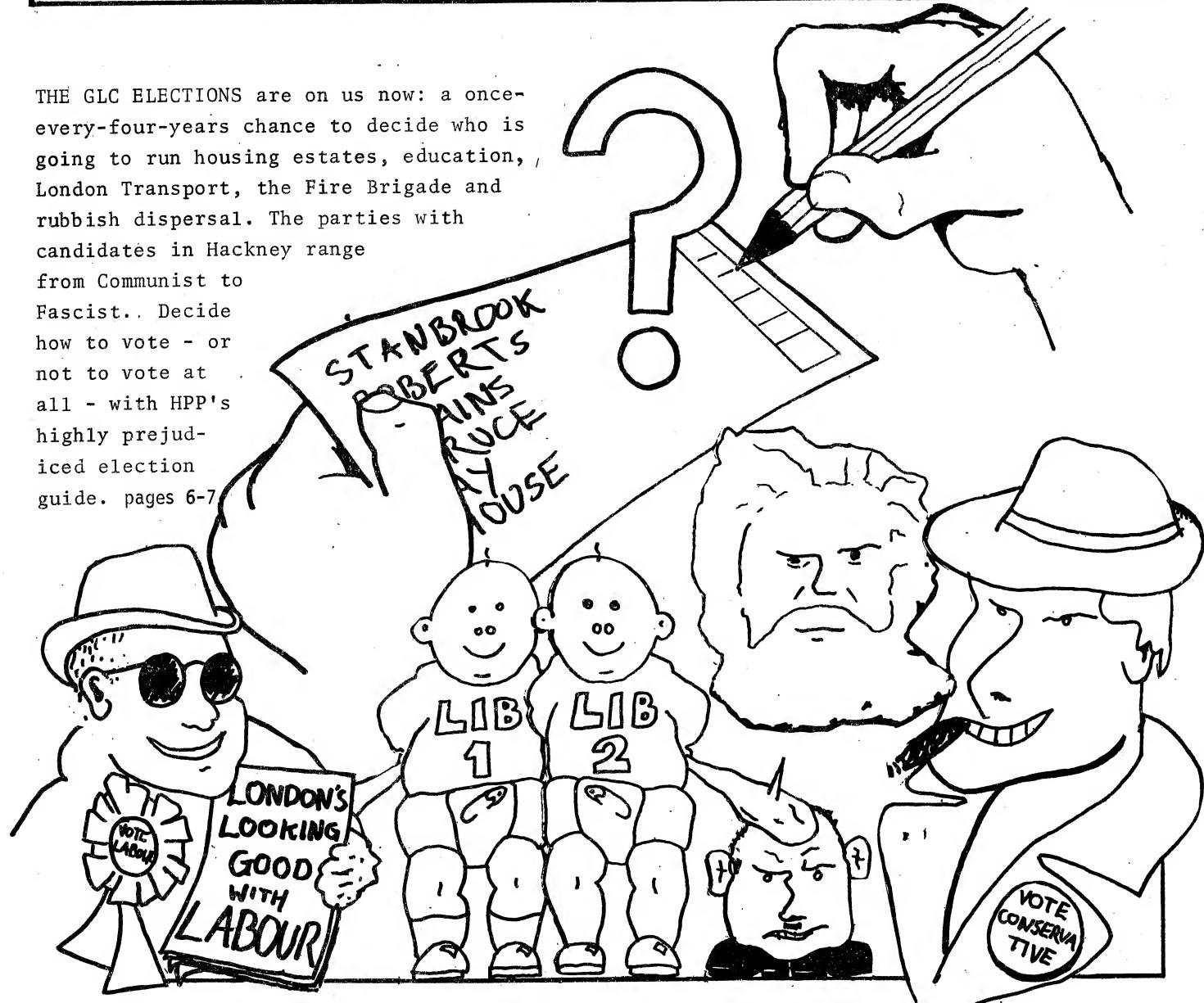
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THE GLC ELECTIONS are on us now: a once-every-four-years chance to decide who is going to run housing estates, education, London Transport, the Fire Brigade and rubbish dispersal. The parties with candidates in Hackney range from Communist to Fascist.. Decide how to vote - or not to vote at all - with HPP's highly prejudiced election guide. pages 6-7



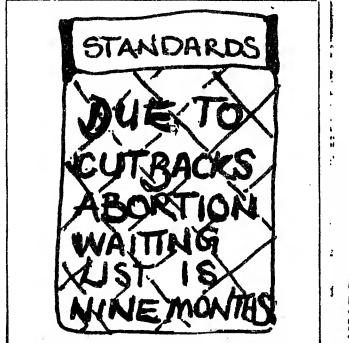
March against Benyon's Bill!

William Benyon, Tory MP for Buckingham and Hackney property owner, won a victory for the anti-abortionists when his Bill passed its second reading in the House of Commons on February 25. 170 MPs voted for it and 132 against.

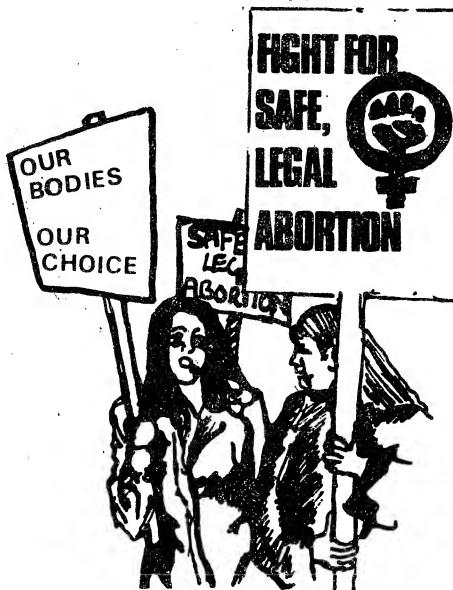
The Benyon Bill seeks to restrict the 1967 Abortion Act by tightening up on so-called 'loop-holes' of the Act. It proposed that the upper limit for abortion be 20 weeks, that one of the two doctors must have been registered for at least five years and that agencies, pregnancy testing centres etc should be open to police inspection at any time. It strengthens the case for 'conscientious objection' by doctors and nurses who are unwilling to perform an abortion, without making it easier for a woman to find alternative abortion facilities if her own doctor objects.

If the Benyon Bill passes its third reading and becomes an Act it will be more difficult than ever for a woman to get an abortion. We must fight against legislation that seeks to deny us control over our own bodies.

NATIONAL DEMONSTRATION: MARCH AGAINST THE BENYON BILL ON SATURDAY MAY 14
Assembly 1.30 pm Belvedere Road, near Waterloo. March to Hyde Park for rally at 4.30 pm.



Benyon is of special interest to people in Hackney. He owns a large amount of property in De Beauvoir, the profits of which go to an organisation called the "Benyon Charity Trust". It is unclear who actually benefits from this



"Charity", but we can be sure that it does not benefit the many women who are forced to suffer through unwanted pregnancies. Strangely, his De Beauvoir property is not listed amongst his many other assets.

On the morning of the second reading in the House of Commons the Hackney Abortion Campaign (HAC) picketed his house in Northchurch Road. HAC is now planning a conference on feminism and abortion on May 7, for women only, which will take place in the Family Centre, Rectory Road, 2-6 pm.

The topics for discussion include: feminism and abortion; abortion and sexuality; abortion and the other demands of the Womens Liberation Movement; abortion and contraception; our emotional reactions to abortion. All women are welcome. HAC also have an exhibition of posters on abortion from all over the world. The exhibition was on display in Centerprise for a fortnight, and stimulated discussions on all aspects of abortion. The posters are now available for other exhibitions. HAC hold fortnightly meetings at 16 Parkholme Road, E8. Ring 249-3768 for details.

STOP ANTI-WOMEN LEGISLATION.
FIGHT BENYON'S BILL. MARCH
ON MAY 14. COME TO THE
CONFERENCE ON MAY 7.

HACKNEY HOMEWORKERS ORGANIZE

The Hackney branch of the London Homeworking Campaign is starting its activities by issuing a questionnaire to known homeworkers. This is being distributed through known contacts, neighbourhood English classes and playgroups. The purpose of this questionnaire is to gather information about rates of pay and conditions in this area. A leaflet - produced in English and seven other languages has also been produced and is available for distribution to known homeworkers.

The London Homeworking Campaign is fighting for a 9 point programme of change, the Homeworkers Charter, which is summarised below.

Hundreds of thousands of people, mainly women, have little choice but to work in their own homes for outside employers. Homeworkers work for poor pay under bad working conditions. We aim at full protection for those who work at home. We are campaigning for conditions that make homework a real choice rather than a forced necessity.

DECENT PAY AND CONDITIONS FOR THOSE WHO WORK AT HOME.

1. Full status of employee for homeworkers, and the extension of protective legislation (eg Health & Safety at Work Act) to cover homeworkers.
2. Trade union organisation of homeworkers.
3. Full information on rights to be publicised.
4. Employers obliged to provide details of homeworkers to the Department of Employment. Lists of homeworkers available to Trades Unions.
5. Equal pay with unionised factory workers, plus premium to cover homeworkers' overheads.

DECENT SOCIAL PROVISION TO END THE NECESSITY FOR HOMEWORKING.

6. Improved local authority provision of day care for children and handicapped or elderly dependants. English training for immigrants.
7. State benefits like Family Income supplement to be raised to realistic levels to end necessity of homeworking.
8. Extension of Government training programmes with pay.
9. Enforcement of employers' disabled workers quotas.

What's so Secret about OFFICIAL SECRETS?

The recent arrests and charging of two journalists and an ex-soldier under the Official Secrets Act have disturbing implications for all of us. The Government has been forced to use an act which it is pledged to repeal by the actions of the Special Branch and the highly secretive MI5 (the so-called "security" service) who decided to arrest these men and didn't bother to inform the Home Secretary, Merlyn Rees, until after the arrests had been made.

Crispin Aubrey, a staff reporter on the magazine Time Out and one of the founder workers on Hackney People's Press, Duncan Campbell, a freelance technical journalist, and John Berry, a social worker and ex-army corporal, are all supporters of the two American writers, Philip Agee and Mark Hosenball. Merlyn Rees has been forced to serve deportation orders on these two by the British security service as a favour to the American Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).

Agee is an ex-CIA officer who became disgusted with their underhand methods of interfering in the internal affairs of other countries. When Agee was in the CIA he helped to infiltrate political organisations, tap telephones, open mail, rig elections, plant false information and betray activists for interrogation and torture -- all in the name of democracy. For make no mistake about it, the CIA (and its British counterpart MI6) are not glamorous organisations involved in James Bond-type operations; they are wheeler-dealers who use bribery and corruption, falsehood and blackmail to prop up oppressive governments and to suppress the will of the people.

So, it is not surprising that the CIA were very unhappy that Agee was allowed to live and work in another NATO country like Britain. And when he visited Jamaica last autumn to help the democratically elected Socialist government of Michael Manley identify the methods by which the CIA were trying to prevent its re-election, this became too much. So -- out he must go! And so must Mark Hosenball, whose only crime appears to be (since neither man knows what the charges are against them) that he wrote an article in Time Out, compiled almost totally from such secret documents as telephone directories, about the Government's secret communications headquarters at Cheltenham.

After the deportation orders were announced the Agee-Hosenball Defence Committee was set up. Immediately there began a chain of minor burglaries and harrassment. A number of address books and the Committee's account book were stolen -- as was a personal cheque book with its cheque guarantee card, normally a gold-mine for a thief, which was handed in anonymously to the bank! Mail was opened and telephone taps were installed and from information deduced from these it was decided (by whom?) to arrest Aubrey, Berry and Campbell after their meeting in Berry's flat in Muswell Hill.

Now, what crime could these men have committed? They are not spies, passing secrets in code back to the Russians. The Russians know all the kind of low-level information being published already. What worries the Special Branch, and the undercover agents, MI5, is that any information however insignificant, might be leaked to the British public. And the kind of information that might be leaked? What British worker's taxes are being spent on, what MI5 and MI6 are really up to,

who is protecting whom from what.

All the "agencies" have been very embarrassed by the publicity that they have received as a result of the decision to deport Agee and Hosenball and the arrest of Aubrey, Berry and Campbell. But it is their own deeds which have exposed them to this publicity and comment. What we must fight for now is for journalistic freedom, and more importantly, for the RIGHT of the public to KNOW.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Aubrey, Berry and Campbell appear again in court on 26 April, after this issue goes to press. Further court hearings will be picketed if and when these happen.

Write to Merlyn Rees. Write to your MP, especially if you live in Hackney South (Ron Brown MP) and explain that he ought to be more worried about the arrest of Crispin Aubrey, one of his constituents.

Get support from your trade union.

The ABC Defence Committee has "I am a security risk" badges and "Official Secret" carrier bags for sale, at 15p plus postage. They are also issuing "complicity statements" for journalists and civil servants to sign, saying that they have either received or transmitted an Official Secret. Contact the ABC Committee c/o Time Out, 374 Grays Inn Road, WC1. 278 2377.

Crispin Aubrey supporting a supporter.



ROLLING UP TO THE RIO

A concerted effort is being made to buy the Rio cinema in Kingsland High Street. The idea is to turn it into a Centre for the arts and entertainment for the people who live in and around Hackney. An offer has been made and work has begun on plans for conversion so that the best possible use can be made of the space available. Applications have been made to the four public authorities responsible for supporting such a project and the Charities Commission is being asked to grant the Centre charitable status.

The Rio was built in 1910 as a Music Hall. It was called the Empire in those days and must have survived as one until the coming of Cinema forced the owners to follow the fashion and convert it. At the moment we don't know when this happened but the style indicates the 1930's. It's seen a number of changes since then including being a strip club. It was bought by the Classic chain over ten years ago and when they decided to get out of the business directly, they leased it to independent operators such as the present owner who concentrates on Greek and Kung Fu films. He decided to sell about three months ago and it seemed too good an opportunity to miss.

The immediate problem was, and still is, one of time. We were all convinced and others agree, that it was a good idea and because there were other people interested in buying it, we had to work fast to find the money to buy it and to pay for the conversion work. There were also the problems of Licences, getting a survey done of the building, having experts look at the possible uses, getting up funds and charitable status and thinking out the best way for it to run with the maximum involvement by groups and individuals in the community. All, except the last, has to be done before it can be bought; the last must be agreed before it can open. The trouble is they all take time.

The only concrete thing to have done is a Report by two theatre consultants. They were asked to work out the costs of making the Rio into a place where cinema, music, theatre, modern dance, art exhibitions and large meetings could take place in the auditorium and where there could be film, video and photographic workshops in the basement. The suggested changes

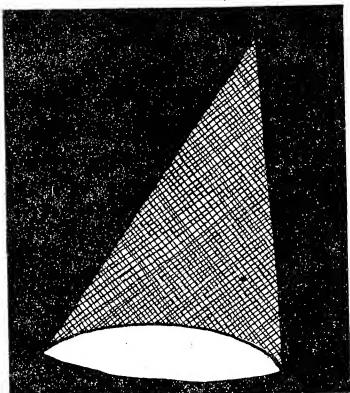
were followed and the total cost was estimated to be £27,180.

The purchase price being asked is £8,500. Applications for this money have been made to the Hackney Borough Council, the Arts Council, the Greater London Arts Association and the Arts Board of the GLC. The Hackney Borough Council has already shown great interest and has decided to support the idea. They cannot, however, do this alone and need the help of the others. The Arts Council and GLAA are also both very interested but have not yet made a decision as to how much they can grant. The GLC seems to be rather reticent at the moment but if they pull out the project might still be able to get off the ground.

All this work is going ahead but none of it will determine what actually takes place at the Rio. Two major problems have to be faced before any decision can be made about which of the arts and what kind of entertainment and how much of each there can be.

The first is the costs of running the place once it has been bought and converted. Rent, rates, heating, lighting and maintenance as well as salaries have to be paid for. Obviously, a number of events can be sponsored. Cllr Bob Masters, Chairman of the Libraries and Amenities Committee, would like to see the Council put on its Music Hall, Pantomime, the Symphony Orchestra and other things

at the Rio. Jazz might be sponsored too and there is no reason why the Arts Council, the GLAA and the GLC cannot support a wide variety of performances, including those arranged by community groups that, at the moment, never get put on in Hackney. But this will not be enough - apart from the basic running costs, the Rio should



be able to support the wide range of non-professional but skilled performers in the Borough as well as the hundreds of people who want to learn and improve their skills in the arts.

This is our right - one that has been denied too long. The purpose of the Rio should be to meet the needs of the people, as defined by the people.

But to do this it must be financially self-supporting. Grants and sponsorship will be asked for but, at the moment and for a few years to come they will not be sufficient to cover running costs. The best and easiest way to do this is by showing good and popular films. With prices even half of what they charge up the West End and with about ten shows a week (say, two each Thursday to Sunday and late on Friday and Saturday), this can produce enough money to cover losses on three other nights and pay for the Workshops and the subsidy on all childrens shows and the special events for old people.



...or just the beginning?

The second problem is how to involve as many interested



The Rio Cinema in Kingsland High Street. A change soon from the usual Kung Fu films?

people as possible. Already there is enormous interest. The Rio Centre (Dalston) Ltd, a Company Limited by Guarantee, allows a lot of people to be involved as members. They can elect a Management Committee and set up an Advisory Committee which will be able to criticise what happens at the Rio and suggest ways of improving it. Discussions have already started with the Community Relations Council, Borough Officers

and various community groups about how to do this. These discussions with the relevant groups in the groups are going ahead urgently because it is important that as many people as possible are involved. The group of people who have been working on the project so far, and who have been doing so because they have the skills and knowledge relevant at this stage are determined to have the Rio run by elected representatives from the Borough.

It is intended to have a public meeting soon organised by Hackney Link-Up. Everyone interested is welcome to attend. The earliest date possible seems to be near the end of June. Before then, if you are a member of any group with an interest in the arts and entertainment, you should write to the Rio Cinema Working Party, c/o 136 Kingsland High Street, E.8. We will probably be in touch with you anyway but it would help now to know where the interest lies.

HACKNEY MARSH RULES OK.!

The aim of this year's Hackney Marsh Fun Festival is to have activities and entertainment throughout Homerton. This will take place from June 5 to July 10 and will be entitled "Hackney Marsh Rules OK".

The festival committee which is composed of people living and working in the Homerton area is setting up a street party campaign. This will entail encouraging as many streets and estates as possible into having a party. Chats Palace will act as co-ordinating centre and will give assistance wherever needed. The street party organisations can make use of its workshop facilities with the help of Free Form workshop team, and they can also take part in a wide range of festival competitions.

There are to be exhibitions

by local people of painting, photography and a season of Drama, Dance, Music and Film.

On June 26 there will be a Grand Garden Party on Daubeney

Fields which will include Morris Dancers, Brass Bands, Street Bands, inflatables, boat rides, medieval jousting and much more. It will also be a day of competitions with finalists from street parties; and an inter-street/estate Crazy Games.

The climax to the festival period will be a Grand Carnival/People Parade on July 10. The People Parade is to enable whole streets to take part in the Carnival. They could use ideas such as flags or banners and will be judged on Daubeney Fields, with the traditional motorized floats. The climax to the day's festivities will be Free Form's Jubilee Firework Display.

Anyone wishing further information please contact Alan Rossiter, tel 986-6714.



THE GLC ELECTIONS on May 5th will decide Greater London policy until 1981, and that concerns you and about nine million other people. There's been quite a lot of criticism from various quarters about the two-tier system of government in this large area. There are even people standing (none in Hackney) in an "abolish the GLC" campaign to give back power to the more local borough administrations.

The GLC's responsibilities are mainly concerned with overall planning policy in London. They are also responsible for:

*Building and upkeep of metropolitan roads and control of traffic.

*Building "strategic" housing estates independently of the boroughs.

*Maintaining parks, rivers, drains and canals.

*Control of construction work in Inner London.

*Control of fire regulations and maintaining the Fire Brigade.

*Disposal of rubbish.

*Licensing of vehicles, betting shops etc.

*London-wide defence. Deep level shelters have been built for politicians and GLC members in case of nuclear war.

*Support for the arts. The South Bank complex was built with GLC support....

*Running of London Transport. Fares are going up again in July....

*Running education in Inner London only, through the Inner London Education authority.

So you can see that quite a large proportion of your life is going to be affected by whichever party gets control of the GLC in May. Below we present a totally unbiased and prejudice-free description of the parties which have candidates standing in Hackney's three constituencies.

Conservative

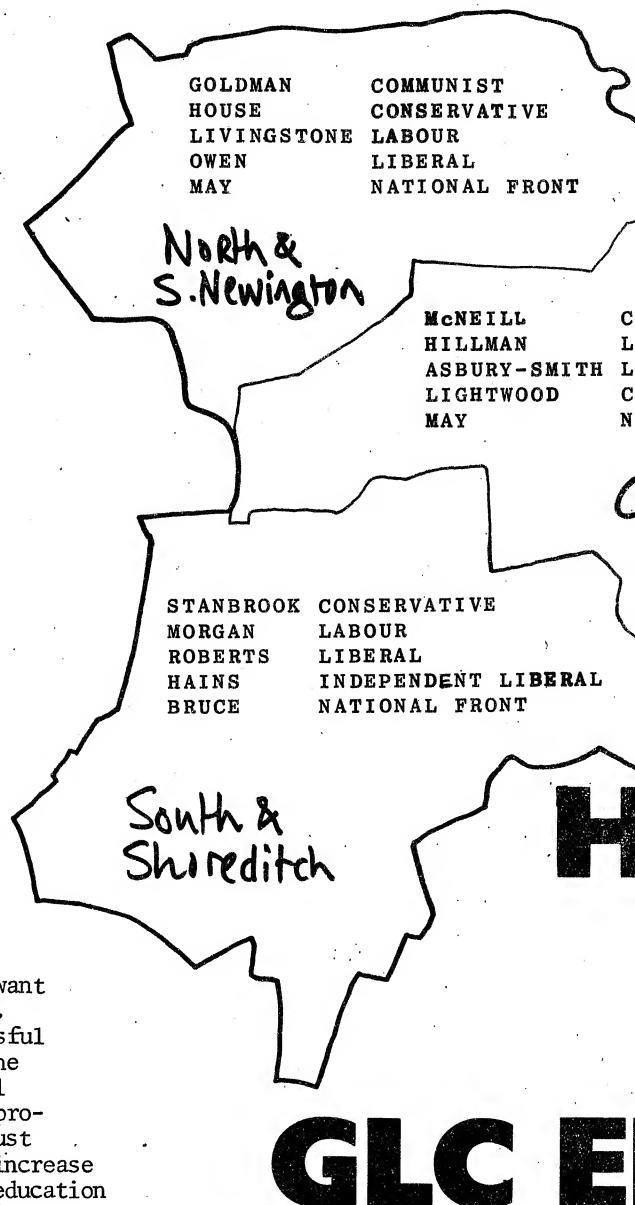
The Conservative Party is running a very low-key campaign in Hackney. However in Islington the story is different - the Party have rented a shop as headquarters for their campaign, which is covered with posters declaring "The Tories' War on Waste". They promise to eliminate all unnecessary spending, presumably including spending on housing, education and public transport. Last year they attacked the ILEA for employing too many teachers and this year they proposed a reduction of £10 million in the estimates. This would have meant either reducing teaching staff, or making many non-teaching staff redundant and forcing teachers to do the work of secretaries, librarians and general assistants as they do in many other London boroughs.

They say that they will attack the problems of education vigorously. The Islington Tories claim that 7 out of 10 parents in the area are concerned about political indoctrination.

The Conservatives promise to review the effectiveness of ILEA. Some have in the past advocated the breaking up of ILEA, others have resisted the idea. They tried to pass education over to the Borough in Kensington - and

it could be that they'd want to do this in every area. This effort was unsuccessful as it was boycotted by the Labour Party and National Union of Teachers. Any proposal to break up ILEA must first of all mean a big increase in bureaucracy - twelve education officers, chief inspectors etc instead of one - and a starving of resources in the areas where most children live and the greater problems are to be found such as Hackney. At the "great debate" in London Mr Vigers (leader of Tory opposition ILEA) said that he did not believe all children were of equal value. The Tory manifesto talks of giving the above average and the over 16s a better chance. Since they will certainly not spend more money, this presumably means taking resources from the majority to improve the position of the minority.

The Labour Party, they say, "has been infiltrated by left-wing extremists! Tribunites! Marxists! International Socialists! Trotskyists! Their aim is to destroy our way of life. You do not know who you would be voting for if you voted Labour". Well, at least you know who you'd be voting for if you voted Tory!



Communist

The Communist Party is putting up candidates in the GLC elections because they believe that the main parties in one way or another are supporting the present social and political order - capitalism. The GLC must, they say, challenge Government policies and lead a fight to make Greater London a better place for people to work and live in. On the GLC the CP will oppose cutbacks in social spending.

The CP councillors will fight for greater democracy on the GLC. They will seek to make all the facts known - no more secret plans or deals. They will fight for council workers to become members of Council Committees.

Housing, the CP believes, is another priority. They want emergency action to end homelessness and overcrowding, the

Liberal

The Liberals in Hackney South, in true form, are much more concerned with squabbling over who should be their candidate than what policies they are pursuing. Similar to the national Liberal situation which makes good press news but hardly good politics.

In the Right corner of the Liberal campaign we have Jeffrey Roberts, well known for his slightly excessive letters to the Gazette, and other outspoken statements which riled the London Liberal branch so much that they threatened to disaffiliate him and asked the local members to vote him out of office. Imagine the shock and horror when the local people voted him in again. And

so, to ensure democracy didn't get in the way of Liberal policy we have in the Left corner Dick Hains, independent Liberal candidate, standing for all those people who are Liberal but won't vote for Roberts.

Roberts, you will remember, founded the Hoxton Improvement Committee only to see Derrick Day elected chairman, a leading local NF supporter. Roberts stayed on however, not worried it seems by the complete self-contradiction of having Day on an "apolitical and non-racist" committee.

The Liberals also have more orthodox candidates on Hackney Central and North, both of whom are quick to associate themselves with Hains rather than Roberts.

Labour

The Labour Party has been mounting a very active campaign in Hackney to keep its seats, including extensive canvassing, and street meetings at local markets.

Margaret Morgan, the candidate for Hackney South and Shoreditch, says that the main priority is to tackle unemployment in London. Talks are in progress with the Government to reverse policy on industrial development (financial encouragement is given to firms to move out of London). The GLC must, she says, play a role in supporting applications for planning permission from firms. They must also encourage boroughs to set up co-operative workshops.

Transport must also be given priority. A Labour GLC will consolidate what has been already done in London Transport - nearly half of Londoners can now travel free or at a flat fare of 5p (children and old people). The brave 1973 promise of the Labour party to move towards free fares for all Londoners has however been quietly dropped. Fares are going up again in July!

She promises to fight to revive the plans for the urgently needed Chelsea-Hackney tube line. The Labour GLC have ensured that 70% of London is now free from overnight lorry parking (lorries are parked in lorry parks instead of on the roads). Tower Hamlets and Hackney are still not free from overnight parking as a suitable site is still to be found.

Margaret pointed out that the GLC had a good homes-building record. She felt that boroughs should manage the GLC estates as the GLC is now too remote to cope with the day-to-day running of estates. There are also problems caused by the GLC and the boroughs having separate rent policies. The Labour Party are campaigning very strongly against the NF, along with the other parties of the Left.

Labour's previous election promises have often been completely neglected. You don't need to look very far to see that London is NOT looking as good as they claim. What is to be hoped is that a new Labour GLC will have the courage to implement campaigning and socialist policies to solve the problems of living in the inner city.

PP GUIDE TO THE ELECTIONS

National Front

And for those of you who think spoiling your ballot paper or tearing it up into very small pieces is too constructive, there's the National Front party with what has to be the most simple and direct policy in the GLC campaign - Hate!

Not that this party is to be taken lightly - in the last General Election they polled 9.4% in Hackney South, a disturbing figure to say the least.

Basically they want to kick out all foreigners (who the hell's a foreigner anyway? We've all got mixed blood). They say "Bring back National Service" and "Make Britain great again!"

Just how this is going to work hasn't been explained although they openly state that it's on the lines of Hitler's Third Reich. Leading lights of the NF such as John Tyndall and Martin Webster have both been in jail for Nazi activities.

They attribute the local problems to an easy scapegoat - the blacks, but supply no solutions and only inflame local people with half truths or complete lies. These fascists have no belief whatsoever in democracy - voting NF is like voting against voting!

building of new homes and the stopping of rent increases. GLC management and repairs could be improved they say if tenants were given a greater say in the running of their estates.

The CP says that cheaper fares should be introduced as a step towards a free system, and more staff encouraged by better pay and conditions.

The CP will work with those Labour councillors willing to make a stand and seek with them to involve the people of Greater London and their organisations in decisions about their areas and services.

The problems facing the working class they say cannot be solved by the implementation of socialist policies which will take political and economic power out of the hands of big business and put it into the hands of the working people.

WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT WINKLING?

This is how it happens - a property company is feeling the recession and is finding that its smaller concerns are not supplying enough profit for them; the tenants aren't paying enough to bring in lots of money over and above maintenance costs, so the company decides to sell the place to get it off their hands. Someone with a bit of money and no scruples comes along and buys it up, kicks out the tenants by some form of intimidation or other, and then sells the empty property for a few thousands more than he bought it. With this hard-earned money he goes on to start afresh elsewhere. He'll use all sorts of methods to get people out of their homes, ranging from noise and smells permeating the house (frying dried peppers is one technique!) to actual threats and personal intimidation. Sooner or later the tenants can't be bothered to hold out and so they leave, behind them an empty house which is now available to the property market for a quick bit of speculation. The sharks who do this dirty work for the property-go-round are nothing less than professional low-key gangsters. In the past three hundred complaints were made a year about this tried and trusted way of making money, as well as smaller time landlords who wanted to get tenants out so that they could jack up the rent. Until a few years ago none were prosecuted, little wonder Hackney Borough is known as a soft touch on this kind of thing. In the past year, however, the picture has been getting a little better; out of forty people whom cases were brought against twenty were successfully prosecuted.

One character who pushed his luck too far had already winkled and sold two houses after which he had bought a property from a handbag company. However the place had a sitting tenant who had worked with the firm and was now retired; it had been stipulated in the deal that he should remain a tenant for this rest of his life. Nevertheless the Winkler soon started working on him and finally got him to leave after some time of continual pressure. He died six months later.

John Sweeney, a Hackney borough councillor in Stoke Newington, has been bringing cases against these sort of people for the past four years despite the fact that the odds seem to be heavily stacked against making successful prosecutions with realistic deterrents involved. If someone has just made a few thousand, what use is a hundred quid fine? It's the council who has to prosecute whereas usually the police are the first on the scene and are better equipped to bring charges against them and make them stick. He feels that prison sentences should be brought back for this type of offence, furthermore the offenders' property should be bought by the council to help pay for the fine and also add to the accommodation pool, also preventing any further speculation. (though it gives the council a chance to do the same).

"The whole system of landlord and tenant is wrong, whether it be private or council owned, collectives would be able to remove the profit factor and concentrate on the people's own needs and maintenance of their housing."

NO FARE RISE THIS TIME!

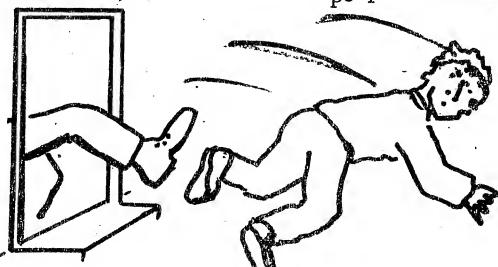
It seems that the Labour Party, which is fighting hard to retain control of the GLC, has quietly forgotten an election pledge that it made in the last GLC elections in 1973. Then it promised that it would freeze bus and tube fares for all Londoners and then make progress towards a FREE transport system, on the grounds that it would be cheaper, more efficient and socially just.

Now, what has happened since then? Well, it's quite obvious. Fares have shot up. Three rises between March 1975 and July 1976 (totalling a staggering 114%) and now another rise promised for this July - a mere 15%. The result of this next fare increase will be the same as the last and the one before that. Less passengers will be able to afford to travel, so less revenue will be gained. Costs will then rise, the service will be cut and transport workers will lose jobs, and the fares will have to go up again.

The FARE FIGHT Campaign, which organised resistance to the last round of fare increases so successfully that several thousand people are still "deferring" part of their tube fares every day, is determined that there will be much greater opposition from both passengers and transport workers when the next rise takes effect. London Transport are desperately trying to quash the campaign before July, and have engaged a Queen's Counsel Barrister to appear in a trial prosecution at Marylebone Magistrates Court on 10th May. However FARE FIGHT is confident of winning the case, and is working with PLATFORM, the rank-and-file transport workers paper, to bring about effective opposition.

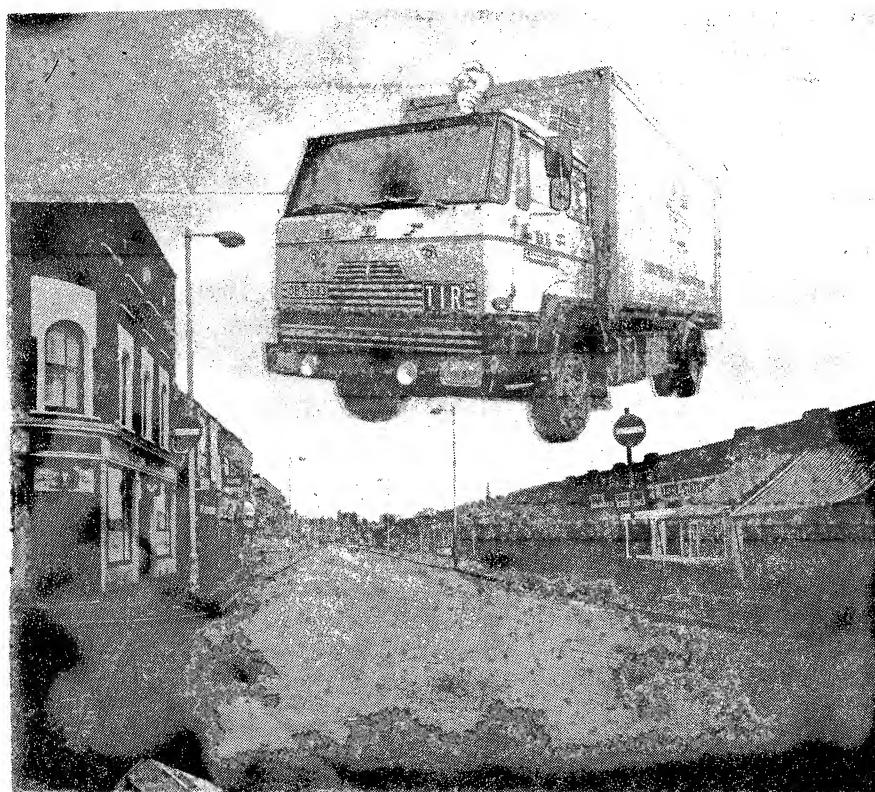
Transport workers in Glasgow gave London the lead two months ago when they refused to collect the new fares that the bus company imposed and instead reduced the fares to a more reasonable level. The scheme lasted just three days however, and the workers were sold out by their union bosses. The mood, however, is there in London for a more militant stand this time and a large public meeting is being called in early June to plan further action.

We can defeat the fare rise in July if we FIGHT together! Watch this space...



The local Friends of the Earth group are at present making negotiations for allotments as a way to use some of the waste-land in the area. In Tower Hamlets there are only twenty-two existing plots at the moment, and a waiting list of sixty people; pretty mean considering there are at least six hundred acres of vacant land in that borough alone. The GLC however sound quite promising about the move to get people to take over

some of the unused land around. In south London recently they allocated a site and also supplied a small £140 grant to help get things going. If you're interested in getting some land together for a bit of home produce, then ring Jon Leach, tel 739-2301. The allotments will probably not be very permanent - up to five years - depending on how long it takes our masters to design yet another abysmal tower block or car park.



lorry park plan

On the surface it's quite reasonable; Hackney is surrounded by boroughs that have banned night parking by lorries, at the same time supplying lorry parks so as to keep them off the streets. Hackney Borough wants to do this too, but before they make the ban they are required to provide overnight parking space for lorries. The two places that have been chosen are just off Dalston Lane near Ridley Road and down in Shoreditch near the NCP car park between Bethnal Green Road and Commercial Street. The latter already takes quite a few vehicles, many of which are lorries, without much trouble. But up in Dalston the picture is different. If you don't know what a lorry park is like, go down to Aldgate at around six o'clock and you will see a long queue of them waiting patiently to get in. It's alright there, because the large roundabout has five lanes, and one lane less for a few hours each evening doesn't cause too much trouble. However the entrance to the park just south of Ridley Road is on a really awkward part of Dalston Lane that would suffer enormously from a two hour lorry queue, disrupting traffic and bus routes as the lorries crawl into Martel Place. How the planners hope to resolve this problem, no-one seems sure. It will no doubt supply another excuse to plough a motorway through Hackney as they've been wanting to do for such a long time!

LETTER

Dear Hackney People's Press,

RACE RELATIONS IN HACKNEY Your article in the last issue entitled 'Liberal Front' could be misunderstood by coloured citizens, and is therefore seriously at odds with the great aim of harmonious race relations in this area. I was of course sacked as GLC candidate for a time, but was reinstated at a meeting of Hackney South and Shoreditch Liberals last Wednesday. Both this meeting and the one that had originally elected me back in December produced overwhelming majorities in my favour and were based on the old membership as far as 80% of votes were concerned. I detest the extreme Right about as much as the extreme Left. But, for the sake of the downtrodden people of Hoxton, I have risked misunderstanding, deliberate or otherwise, to work on a non-political group with Derrick Day, whom I believe to have the best interests of his area at heart, notwithstanding his political views.

I have enclosed background on the Hoxton Improvement Committee, together with my views on immigration. You may print whatever you like (it is still a free country) but I do require you to read what I have said in the interests of our fellow citizens - especially those who happen to have a different colour of skin. You yourselves make the easy mistake of distinguishing between British people and immigrants in your article - I try to avoid this because I don't think a man is any less British because he is black. Do you?

J D Roberts, prospective Liberal GLC Candidate, Hackney South and Shoreditch.



odds 'n' sods

RELEASE

Release Publications have just issued their second pamphlet in a series on drug education. Entitled 'Barbiturates and Mandrax', it outlines the different types of barbiturates and warns of the danger of their use.

The pamphlet says that the risk of death by overdose of barbiturates is very high because its lethal dose can be as little as twice the prescribed dose. Barbiturates are dangerous, too, because they mix badly with other drugs, particularly alcohol. Legally barbiturates are not covered by the Misuse of Drugs Act and thus simple possession of them is not a crime.

Mandrax, though not a barbiturate, has very similar effects and it is illegal to be in possession of them without a prescription. Release are producing a series of pamphlets dealing with drugs commonly used for non-medical purposes. LSD (10p) is already available and pamphlets on heroin, cocaine, and amphetamines are in preparation. A revised drugs guide for students will also soon be published. 'Barbiturates and Mandrax' is available from Release Publications, 1 Elgin Avenue, London W9, price 5p plus SAE. A publications list is also available for an SAE.

REPRESSION IN WEST GERMANY

The Campaign Against Repression in West Germany has published a bulletin 'Verboten' which provides information on the present situation in West Germany, and its historical background. The last few years have seen an increase in political and cultural repression in West Germany, as exemplified in the 'Berufsverbote' - the ban on the employment of 'political radicals' in the public service, the new provisions relating to the exclusion of defence lawyers from trials, censorship laws, and, as recently revealed, the widespread and illegal use of telephone tapping by the police and security services.

Copies are available from Campaign Against Repression in West Germany, 35 Wellington Street WC2; send 40p plus large SAE.

LABOUR YOUTH

Are you 15-25 years old? Do you live in Hackney South and Shoreditch constituency? Do you want to find out more about what policies your MP and councillors stand for? Do you have opinions about the Labour Government? Are you alarmed about the increase in activities of the Right-wing Tories and Fascists? Do you want to defend our jobs and living standards? Do you want to discuss and find out more about such issues as education, deteriorating health facilities, and the struggle for the equality for women?

If so, then come along to the Annual General Meeting of Hackney South and Shoreditch Labour Party Young Socialists on Wednesday 18 May at 8 pm at 108 Shepherdess Walk N1. Help us organise a programme of interesting meetings and social events. For further information contact Amy McQuaide at the above address, tel 253-1556.



DIRECTORY OF HOUSING CO-OPERATIVES

The Directory of Housing Co-operatives is a basic guide to housing co-operatives, the agencies that service them, the official bodies they deal with, and the available sources of information about them.

This directory was prepared by a working party set up by a conference of housing co-operatives in April 1976.

The working party collected information in the summer and autumn of 1976, using a questionnaire distributed to all known co-operatives, established and embryonic.

As far as possible the entries include the accounts which the groups themselves gave of their history and activities.

Housing co-operatives are a new phenomenon and the situation is continually changing, so that a directory like this becomes out of date very quickly. However this very newness means it is essential that experience should be shared as widely as possible.

It is hoped that as well as helping new groups, it will encourage co-operatives to send further information for an updated second edition.

Copies of the directory can be obtained from Andy Dunning, 79c Balfour Street, SE 17 1PL. Please send a large SAE (11p stamp).

EVENTS and MEETINGS

Fri 6 May. Chats Palace. 8pm. New Revue Theatre Co. "The Wicked World" by WS Gilbert.

Sat 7 May. North London Poly. Holloway Road. 10am. Conference on repression in West Germany.

Sat 7 May. Chats Palace. 8pm. Prof. Alexander's Music Hall.

Monday 9 May. Centerprise. 8pm. Film "Case of Blackmail". NE London SERA.

Tues 10- Sat 14 May. Half Moon Theatre, Alie Street, E.1. Soapbox Theatre. "One for the Road."

Friday 13 May. Chats Palace. Hackney Housing Co-op. Fund raising party, with disco and "Solid Earth".

Saturday 14 May. Chats Palace. 8pm. RAPP. Black Theatre Co.

Sunday 22 May. Half Moon Theatre. 8pm. Old Tyme Music Hall.

All listings in the Events & Meetings Section above to friendly groups. Send us details now for the next issue.

GAYS

EAST LONDON FAGGOTS

Collective of gay socialists living and working in East London. Contact 19 Redmans Road, E.1. 790 2454.

NORTH LONDON GAY CENTRE

17 Perth Road, N.4.

MEDITATION

ANANDA MARGA

For spiritual progress and social change. Introduction to meditation classes every Wednesday 7.30pm at 1 Cazenove Road, N.16. Everyone welcome!

ECOLOGY

WASTE PAPER

Take old newspaper, magazines and cardboard, to RICB, Drysdale Street, N.1 (just off Hoxton Street) and get given free Green Shield Stamps! 2 stamps per pound of paper.

Monday-Friday 7am-4pm. Saturday 9.30-12.30pm. All the paper YOU take in goes to help blind children to see.

FRIENDS OF THE EARTH

Local group: contact John Leach 739 2301.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY ALAN!
from all at 136.
Having a wonderful
time, wish you were
here.

USE THIS SPACE FREE! Send details of events or regular meetings to HPP c/o Enterprise.

COMMUNITY, TENANTS and PENSIONERS GROUPS

HACKNEY PENSIONERS ASSOCIATION

34 Dalston Lane, E.8
Advice service on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10.30 to 4pm. Tea Bar Monday to Friday 10.30 to 4pm.

TASK FORCE

34 Dalston Lane, E.8. Tel: 254 1620
Free advice for pensioners in Hackney. Odd jobs and visits in N.16 and N.4 only. Pensioners' activities and neighbourhood care in N.5.

HARAMBEE 2 PROJECT

Upper Clapton Congregational Hall, E.5.
Social and advice centre, aimed particularly at black people.
Tuesday 10am - 10pm
Thursday 10am - 4.30pm
Friday 10am - 10pm

OFF CENTRE

25 Hackney Grove, E.8 Tel: 985 8566
Advice for young people between 13 and 25 with any problems.
Monday-Friday 10am-6pm (open until 8.30pm on Tuesdays.)

FRIENDS ANONYMOUS SERVICE

Friendship House, 27 Hackney Grove, E.8
24 hour telephone service with people always willing to listen and act.
986 2233 (24 hours)
985 0973 (office hours)
986 9146

SOUTH STOKE NEWINGTON COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

54 Harcombe Road, N.16.

EAST STOKE NEWINGTON COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Contact: Barbara Harris, 124a Stoke Newington High Street, N.16.

HACKNEY UNITED TENANTS ASSOCIATION

c/o 35 Finnmore House, Woodberry Down, N.4.

HACKNEY GINGERBREAD

Group for one parent families. Meet every other Monday at 34 Dalston Lane, E.8, at 7.30. Contact Brenda Royal 986 9776 for details.

FOOD

DOWN TO EARTH

Durham Row, Stepney Green, E.1.
Wholefood shop selling grains, flour, beans, honey, herbs etc.
790 3512. Monday-Saturday 9am-6pm.

FOOD FOR ALL

3 Cazenove Road, N.16.
Wholefood shop, also selling books and crafts. All food carries levy to support the women's centre next door (see WOMEN) and proposed school at 5 Cazenove Road. 806 4138.

THE WORKSHOP

THE WORKSHOP

81 Lenthal Road, E.8
254 9632 before 6pm on Tuesday to Friday only.
Learn to print posters, T shirts etc at non-commercial rates. Cost of materials only. Open Tuesdays-Sundays 1pm-8pm.

POLITICAL GROUPS

HACKNEY LABOUR PARTY YOUNG SOCIALISTS

Hackney South

Reforming soon at 108 Shepherdess Walk, N.1. Details from Amy McQuaide 253 1556.

Hackney Central

Meets every Wednesday at 8pm at 34 Dalston Lane, E.8.

Hackney North

Meet every other Monday at 8pm at 5 Stamford Hill, N.16. Contact Mark Douglas, 103 Osbaldestone Road, N.16 for details. All welcome.

HACKNEY COMMUNIST PARTY

10 branches hold meetings regularly in the borough. Contact Monty Goldman 12 Leaside Road, E.5. 806 1367.

HACKNEY YOUNG COMMUNIST LEAGUE

Contact E. Ross 986 5767 for details.

HACKNEY SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY

Meet regularly in Enterprise. Contact Liz 739 9772 for details.

ANARCHIST WORKERS ASSOCIATION

c/o Enterprise, 136 Kingsland High Street, E.8. Contact Dave Coull 226 0817 for details. Open discussion meeting every third Tuesday evening.

HACKNEY COMMITTEE AGAINST RACISM

Meets on the first Wednesday of each month at the Hackney Community Relations Council, Mare Street, E.8.

WOMEN

HACKNEY WOMENS AID

Shelter for battered women and children now operating. Contact:

Linda 254 0882 (days)

521 2547 (eves)

John 985 4901

Catriona 985 3059 (eves)

HACKNEY ABORTION CAMPAIGN

Meetings fortnightly at 16 Parkholme Road, E.8. Contact 249 3768 for details.

WOMEN'S CENTRE

1 Cazenove Road, N.16.

Advice, creche, children's clothes swap shop, beginners photography, crafts, yoga, relaxation, consciousness raising groups, food co-op, alternative medicine, self-defence. Further information from 806 6664. All women welcome.

CHILDREN

HACKNEY UNDER FIVES

c/o Enterprise, 136 Kingsland High Street, E.8. 254 9145.

Information and support for parents with children below school age. Contact Madge Harte or Gillian Wilding.

Stores are available every Saturday from 10am-12.30pm. Open monthly meetings first Tuesday of every month at 8pm in Enterprise.

HACKNEY PLAY ASSOCIATION

c/o Enterprise, 136 Kingsland High Street, E.8. 254 9145.

Information, advice and help to people organising play facilities for children. Contact Cheryl Broadway or Mo Ross.

ADVICE

Free legal advice on housing, landlord and tenant, employment, social security, welfare, matrimonial, immigration and discrimination problems can be obtained from the following centres:

CENTERPRISE

136 Kingsland High Street, E.8.
THURSDAYS 6.30-7.30pm.

SNAGS?

Minor Road Church (corner of Manor Road and Lordship Road) N.16.
MONDAYS AND WEDNESDAYS 7-8pm.

HOXTON HALL

128a Hoxton Street, N.1.
WEDNESDAYS 7-8pm.

KINGSMEAD

Wally Foster Centre, Homerton Road, E.9.
TUESDAYS 7-8pm.

ALLEN ROAD

12 Allen Road, N.16.
THURSDAYS 7-8pm.

HACKNEY COMMUNITY RELATIONS COUNCIL

245 Mare Street, E.8.
TUESDAYS 7-8pm.

Advice can also be obtained from:

HACKNEY ADVICE BUREAU & LAW CENTRE

236-8 Mare Street, E.8. 986 8446.
Open Monday-Friday 10am-5pm (7.30pm on Thursdays.)

Legal aid and advice on housing, rents, repairs and employment problems.

HACKNEY NORTH LABOUR PARTY ADVICE CENTRE

5 Stamford Hill, N.16.
Advice and information on legal, financial, welfare, housing, social security and personal problems.
FRIDAYS 7-8pm.

for HARAMBEE 2 PROJECT and OFF CENTRE
see Community Groups section on this page.

CENTERPRISE

CENTERPRISE

136 Kingsland High Street, E.8.
254 9632.

Bookshop and office hours:
Tuesday-Saturday 10am-6.30pm.

Coffeebar and meeting room hours:
Tuesday-Friday 10am-10pm
Saturday 10am-6.30pm.

Facilities:

Coffeebar; bookshop; advice, information and contacts for individuals and groups. Typewriters can be used free, duplicating at cost price. Ask in General Office.

Advice Centre:
Legal and welfare advice session on Thursdays, 6.30-7.30pm. Contact Jon Webber or ring 254 9634.

Reading Centre:

For adults who find it hard to read or write. Contact Sue Sharpen or ring 254 9635.



Publishing Project:
Publishing books by people who live in Hackney. Contact Ken Worpole or ring 254 9634.

Youth Project:
Table tennis, music, writing, discussion groups etc. Tuesday to Friday afternoons, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings. Contact Oliver Flavin.

HEALTH

CITY AND HACKNEY COMMUNITY HEALTH COUNCIL

Shoreditch Health Centre, 210 Kingsland Road, E.2. 739 6308. Monday-Friday 10am-5pm.
Takes up your criticisms of local health services.

Windscale

- IT'LL COST THE EARTH !

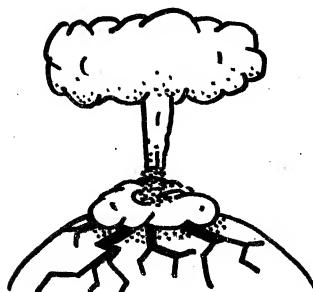
The North East London branch of S.E.R.A. (Socialist Environmental and Resources Association) is very concerned about the proposed plan to develop a nuclear waste reprocessing plant at Windscale in Northumbria.

Windscale's purpose will be to separate plutonium from the waste nuclear fuel. Plutonium is a highly toxic substance and it remains a deadly poison for about a quarter of a million years before it becomes inactive. It is a cancer producing substance and its potential for producing weapons of mass scale slaughter is horrifying.

S.E.R.A also criticizes the concept of a nuclear energy economy because of the inevitable consequences for employment. Reprocessing plants like that at Windscale use enormous sums of money to employ very few people. If this vast amount of money were diverted into developing schemes aimed at saving energy as well as producing it, then socially useful work would be created for thousands. House insulation and the harnessing of wave and solar power are but a few of the many ideas which have been proposed by SERA and other like-minded groups.

N.E. London S.E.R.A. will be helping the Friends of the Earth organisation raise the £25,000 they will need to put the environmentalists case at the Windscale public inquiry. They will show a film which highlights the terrible risks of plutonium production at 8o'clock at Centerprise on 9th. May. The film, entitled "A Case of Blackmail" shows how a Government could be blackmailed by a handful of terrorists who have got hold of the plutonium.

We hope as many people as possible will come along to Centerprise to see this film and take part in the discussion afterwards.



In the north west corner of the park, a view of the old canal basin where coal barges used to unload. Now it has been filled in and made into one of Haggerston's few open spaces.

Haggerston Park is growing!

Hackney has drawn up a two-phase plan to expand Haggerston park, originally cleared from the bombed-out imperial gasworks and canal basin. The final area will stretch right down to Hackney road and Goldsmiths row; quite what will happen to the people now living there hasn't been explained. Perhaps some of this land could be given to the Gypsies that have been the cause of some complaints because they have no official pitch in the area.

One special feature to be included in the plan is an all weather football pitch with floodlighting, and the area near the Queen Elizabeth childrens hospital will be made into a play space for the kids who are staying there.

HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS is an alternative paper produced by a group of people living in the borough, for the people of Hackney.

We do not publish for profit, but because we hope you will find the paper interesting and useful. We are not aligned to or funded by any political party. There is no Editor - we are all involved in editorial decisions.

It is YOUR paper, and we need YOUR help, YOUR interest and YOUR enthusiasm. If you can help us in any way - and we need help always to do everything: write articles, type and lay them out, take photographs, do cartoons, distribute and sell the finished copies - then we would like to hear from you. Come to our next meeting:

Tuesday 17th May

8pm

Centerprise

or write to us c/o Centerprise or ring 249 0311 (evenings and weekends.)

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HPP is sold through various newsagents and bookshops around Hackney. If you think your newsagent would like to sell the paper, then please contact us. We also sell copies through individuals and community groups and on several housing estates. If you don't think that you can spare the time to become more fully involved in producing HPP, but you enjoy reading it and think more people should read it, then please contact us if you are willing to sell a few copies to your friends and neighbours, or at your meetings.

subscribe

to Hackney People's Press and make sure of your copies regularly. Only £1.45 for ten issues. Please make cheque out to Hackney People's Press and send it to Hackney People's Press, c/o Centerprise, 136 Kingsland High Street, London E.8.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____